

## **Testimony of Marta Daniels in Support of HB 7352 To Include Climate Change in Connecticut Public School Curriculums**

To the Co-Chairs Sen. McCrory and Rep. Sanchez; Ranking Members, Vice-Chairs, and distinguished members of the Joint Education Committee:

My name is Marta Daniels of Chester CT, and I am writing in support of Raised bill, H.B. 7352, AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

While I support all of the proposed curriculum additions (1-12), I am specifically focusing my supporting remarks today on the provision of the bill that includes lines 62-67, and line 79:

62 The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum  
63 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional  
64 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to  
65 this section. The State Board of Education, within available  
66 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist  
67 encourage local and regional boards of education to include:

79 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards;

As I prepare my statement today, Friday March 15, 2019, preliminary to Monday's March 18th Public Hearing on HB 7352, students from 112 countries are [skipping school to push for action against Climate Change](#). Over 2000 demonstrations worldwide (including more than 800 in the US) are being held. They were organized by our youth because the adults have failed to act to mitigate the impact of Climate Change. Their voices are urgent, and the need for an unequivocal response is essential.

HB 7352 is a positive first step in assuring that the urgency of Climate Change reversal will be a part of a growing awareness that citizens of the planet need to take action.

In [the 2018 report](#) of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we are warned that we are less than 12 years away from the point of no return; according to [the best scientific minds](#), reversing Climate Change must happen before then—[before the window shuts forever on mitigating our global danger](#). It found that without sweeping cuts to global greenhouse gas emissions, the world stands little chance of keeping the planet's average temperature from warming 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels — [the goal of the Paris agreement](#)—a vital point of irreversible danger.

In [the 2019 findings](#) of 13 United States federal agencies we are given a description of grave threats posed by climate change to the nation including the extremes of weather

reported daily, in the vanishing Arctic ice, raging wildfires, violent tornadoes and other consequences of an overheating planet that appear with ever increasing frequency. Scientists have demonstrated that humanity [is currently causing the sixth mass extinction](#) of species, and the global climate system is at the brink of a catastrophic [crisis if concerted action is not taken](#). Our own Pentagon [considers Climate Change a national security issue](#).

Our young people, and all concerned adults, are asking that these climate realities, so clearly and well chronicled, not be ignored.

In the words of 16-year-old Swedish [climate activist Greta Thunberg](#) credited with having sparked a global movement among young people: “Adults keep saying: ‘We owe it to the young people to give them hope.’ But I don’t want your hope,” [she told the audience](#) at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos. “I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.”

The opportunity to face this reality is before this session of the legislature in H.B. 5372. Members who initiated this learning opportunity are to be commended. Encouraging a Climate Change curriculum is a good first step, and offers an opportunity to debate—in a serious, scholarly manner—what we can do together to reverse the present headlong dash to destruction.

Please approve this in Committee, and for legislative consideration of the whole. Thank you for your time and work on the Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Marta Daniels

PS: Just as Jonathan Schell’s landmark book, [Fate of the Earth](#), in the Feb. 1, 1982 New Yorker Magazine, awakened the world to the threat of modern nuclear weapons, so Bill McKibben’s recent book, *How Extreme Weather is Shrinking the Planet*, in the Nov. 26, 2018 issue of the New Yorker, is the rallying cry to alert us to the threat of Climate Change. I encourage members of the Committee to read McKibben’s piece [here](#).

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**Submitted March 15, 2019 to the Joint Committee on Education.**